

2014 Drought - Summary of EF Actions and Operational Area Concerns – 02/04/2014
1830 hours (Updated)

EMERGENCY FUNCTIONS:

EF 03 - Department of Water Resources (DWR)

* On December 13, DWR activated the Drought Management Operations Center (DMOC) under SEMS and the DWR Drought Management Team to support the Drought Task Force and the State Operations Center (SOC) objectives. The department has been preparing for critical water shortage conditions for a number of months.

* DWR has accelerated identification of specialized resources to address specific objectives. Management teams have been established for Water Use Efficiency and Water Transfers. New management teams include Groundwater, Local Assistance, and Diversion Oversight (to support resource needs of SWRCB-Water Rights). In addition, a Delta Barriers Team is in the process of forming with the objective of providing modeling, construction and environmental permitting for any new barriers that may be determined to be necessary to protect beneficial uses.

* DWR has enhanced the drought website for the public (www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions) with further emphasis on water conservation as well as other topics. Links to a larger variety of conservation websites are available (Save Our Water, 20% by 2020, and Water Use Efficiency) as well as links to other state agency drought websites (Cal OES, CDPH, USDA).

* Based on current forecast - water supply resources (surface and ground water) will be further degraded in the coming weeks and months. Limited supply will have local, regional and statewide impacts.

EF 06 - The Emergency Food and Assistance Program (EFAP)

* The Emergency Food and Assistance Program (EFAP) has been identified to provide the oversight of the delivery of the emergency food needs for the State proclaimed drought counties.

EF 07 – California Government Operations Agency (CalGovOps) / Department of General Services (DGS)

* State Agencies, led by Department of General Services, will immediately implement water use reduction plans for all state facilities. These plans will include immediate water conservation actions, and a moratorium will be placed on new, non-essential landscaping projects at state facilities and on state highways and roads.

EF 08 - California Department of Health (CDPH)

* California Department of Health (CDPH) is conducting a comprehensive update of the impact of the drought on at risk water systems. The data collected from water systems is included in the Situation Report under the Operations Drinking Water section. Information will be updated weekly.

EF 10 - State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

* Met with DWR and are prepared to process water transfers filed with the SWRCB within 60 days.

- * Met with DWR and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation regarding Consolidated Place of Use and are prepared to process once received.
- * Met with DWR, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and fishery agencies regarding Temporary Urgency Change Petition for rebalancing Delta requirements. Also are evaluating actual curtailment of water right holders in various watersheds throughout the state.

EF 11 - California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

- * California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Senior Activation Team continues to meet weekly to discuss Departmental efforts to support the statewide drought. Key staffs are engaged in research, outreach, and collaborative efforts with state, local and federal stakeholders/industry to ensure that all information about the various assistance programs and services is discovered and shared as appropriate.
- * The CDFA one-stop website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/drought) will continue to be updated and provide timely updates on the drought; it will connect farmers to state and federal programs and it will share assistance programs and services for farm workers. Information on the webpage will be translated to Spanish; the translation target date is 2/3/14.
- * [Secretary Karen Ross met with Tom Vilsack, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, on 02/04/14.](#)
- * [CDFA will provide the State Board of Food and Agriculture a Governor's Drought Task Force update at their monthly meeting on 02/04/14.](#)

EF 12 - Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

- * Evaluate and manage the changing impacts of drought on threatened and endangered species and species of special concern, and develop contingency plans for state Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves to manage reduced water resources in the public interest.
- * For several weeks, over 100 field staff conducted reconnaissance monitoring of streams and creeks across the state to evaluate flow and water temperature, potential new barriers to fish movement, and sites where fish may be concentrating due to lack of water.
- * DFW has begun to evaluate water supply, use, and future actions at its hatchery facilities to increase water conservation, maximize fish survival, and strategize how, when, and where to release fish stock. The hatchery system is also being evaluated for best and potential fish conservation facilities, to hold the most at-risk fish populations and preserve native genetic stock and diversity if necessary.
- * DFW has implemented angling closures on all South Central Coast streams, except on the Salinas and Arroyo Seco rivers, to help protect migrating steelhead. At the 02/05/14 Fish and Game Commission meeting, DFW will request the Commission to adopt emergency regulations to implement temporary angling closures on certain waters (e.g. the lower American River and main stem Russian River). Also, DFW is recommending an extension of the low-flow restrictions angling closures for the North Coast and Central Coast areas (above San Francisco Bay) through April 30.
- * [CDFW remains committed to the Governor's Drought Task Force and completing the tasks assigned. Under these extreme drought conditions, it is prudent to conserve and protect as many adult fish as possible to help ensure the future of fishing in California. CDFW has the authority under Title 14, Article 4, Section 8.00\(c\) to close south central coast streams and north coast streams to fishing. The south coast streams will be closed from December 1 through March 7 when it is determined that stream flows are inadequate to provide fish passage for migrating](#)

steelhead trout and salmon. North coast streams will be closed from September 1 (Mad River) and October 1 (all others) through January 31 when it is determined that the flow at any of the designated gauging stations is less than minimum flows stated in regulation.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

DPR is working with all 290 parks to reduce landscape irrigation.

CAL FIRE

Based on the current and expected weather conditions and fire activity, CAL FIRE has retained staffing on 39 engines in the southern part of the State that would normally not be staffed at this time of the year. In the northern part of the State, CAL FIRE has staffed 25 engines throughout the region that would normally not be staffed at this time of the year. Additionally, CAL FIRE has retained aviation resources at five air attack bases that would normally be closed this time of year. Finally, CAL FIRE has requested additional proportional funding for the contract counties that protect State Responsibility Area on behalf of the State.

* On February 3, the Governor's Office approved Cal Fire's request for early staffing in response to current condition based on heightened fire risk during drought conditions. All Cal Fire locations have complied with the 20% irrigation conservation reduction.

Natural Resources Agency

- * Will coordinate a meeting with DWR and CAL FIRE on fire prevention and threats.
- * Will continue to coordinate actions between DWR, Fish & Wildlife, and other resource agencies regarding dry conditions and environmental impacts on a bi-weekly basis.

OPERATIONAL AREAS:**Inland Region:****Alpine County:**

- *Alpine County is concerned with their loss of sales tax and transient occupancy tax (hotel/TOT) due to the drought.

Amador County:

- *Amador Water Agency is encouraging its customers to voluntarily conserve water to a 20% level consistent with the Governor's request in his proclamation.

Butte County:

- * Butte County is concerned that private wells in the foothills will start drying up later this summer.

Calaveras County:

- * The District is enforcing voluntarily conservation 20% reduction at this time. The District is providing public awareness through handouts, website updates, and requesting the voluntary measures at this time. Currently in State 2 - Warning voluntary measures

El Dorado County:

- * El Dorado County Sheriff OES has scheduled a meeting with El Dorado Irrigation District on February 6th at 1000 hours to discuss drought impact.

Fresno County:

- * Fresno County OES advised after they received information regarding two water systems identified as vulnerable within their county, their Environmental Health Division contacted their District Engineer for the CDPH Drinking Water Program in order to get more specific information. The two systems were determined to be fine and they should not have been included in the list.

Glenn County:

- *Working with their AG commissioner to keep monitoring the impacts on the ranchers and farmers in the county

Kern County:

- Officials will be meeting with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Rural and Community Affairs Advisor this Wednesday 2/5/14 to discuss drought issues.

Kings County:

* If shortage continues, Avenal may be requesting assistance but only after a formal proclamation by City Council, implementing further reductions, building moratorium, and relooking at secondary water users.

Lassen County:

* Continuing to monitor the impacts locally and are working with their AG Commissioner. They are considering declaring a local disaster.

Merced County:

* Merced County will make a Proclamation during the February 25th Board meeting. They will not require state or federal assistance at this time.

Placer County:

* Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) anticipates they will declare a Water Shortage Emergency at their February 6th Board meeting.

* Placer County OA is implementing Governor Brown's 20% voluntary reduction message. There has not been a noticeable spike in well drilling permits. Water Agencies are communicating with their customers encouraging voluntary reductions of up to 35% for indoor use and 50% for outdoor use as well as increased monitoring of groundwater levels in wells.

• Increased labor costs to perform additional water level monitoring, and pumping of the American River and groundwater. Emergency projects are being contemplated to mitigate this concern. PCWA estimates a loss of 60% of the primary supply to their service areas.

The City of Roseville will begin pumping from their ground water sources. Typically, Placer County Water Agency has surplus water storage which allows them to provide water to rice farmers on the western end of the county. Because there is no surplus water this year, PCWA will not be able to provide water to rice farmers. This year, rice farmers will be relying on groundwater to support their crops. Because of this, 75% of the rice farmers in the county have decided not to plant this year.

Plumas County:

* UC Cooperative Extension is leading efforts to educate and assist ranchers with grazing, herd management, livestock water and other drought considerations. Surface water deliveries (Sierra and Indian Valleys) will be started on March 15. No surplus water is anticipated. Unless water supplies dramatically improve, only first water rights holders will be fulfilled.

* Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District reports substantial water level draw down on their monitoring well network. With early pumping expected, there is growing concern that some wells may go dry by later summer. USFS is reporting reduced forage will lead to reduced (if any) grazing allotments. They are also investigating placement of water storage tanks for both fire suppression and stock water use. Natural Resource Conservation Service plans to offer financial assistance for hauled water or drilling wells for livestock watering.

Sacramento County:

* Stage 2 – 20% water reduction requested from public.

* Folsom at Stage 3 with Stage 1 being normal, and also asking for 20% reduction in water usage and limiting outside watering to 2 days/week.

San Joaquin County:

* Reported current issues with cattle ranchers supplementing feed and seeing stock ponds drying up. Existing crops are requiring irrigation normally needed in warmer months as well as the need for possible crop rotations.

Stanislaus County:

* Working to coordinate a Drought Task Force meeting with local agencies.

Sierra County:

* A joint task with Plumas County met on 01/30/14 in Loyalton to discuss the impact of the drought on the two counties; areas of discussions will include fire danger, agriculture, recreation, and water supplies.

* The lack of snowfall has crippled the local winter recreation businesses, business is down 40-70% with some businesses closed or reduced hours and staff. Feed cost for ranchers are up, water supplies for the ranchers this spring and summer could be severely cut. If the national forest (70% of the county is national forest) is closed due to high fire danger, it would have a huge impact on businesses that depend on hikers, mountain bikers, hunters, fishing, campers, firewood cutting and logging.

Sutter County:

* There is a need for State Mutual Aid with the primary concern being insufficient forage for livestock grazing within the Sutter Buttes. Ranchers hay stocks are dwindling rapidly because of the need to supplant their dry land pastures.

* Secondary concern is lack of water for livestock. Water wells will definitely fail by summer, adding costs to re-drill and replace pumps. Also, costs to transport potable water to ranches will be costly.

Tehama County:

* Held a special meeting of all the County Department heads to discuss the Drought impact on the County and Agricultural community. During the meeting a Drought Committee was formed to start tracking all the important impacts that drought is having on individuals, the cities, special districts etc. The County is also considering declaring a local disaster if they need to put into place additional restrictions besides the 20 % the governor is recommending.

Tuolumne County:

* Tuolumne Utilities District has moved into Phase III, mandatory water conservation. Customers must reduce water usage by 50%.

* On 02/04/14 at 1745 hours a Proclamation was received from the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors proclaiming the existence of a local emergency due to drought conditions. State and federal assistance is being requested at this time.

Tulare County:

* The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has instructed Tulare County OES to draft a Proclamation of a Local Emergency to go forth on 02/04/14 at the BOS meeting. At this time, there is no request for resources of assistance from the State.

* On 02/04/14 at 1708 hours a Proclamation was received from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors proclaiming the existence of a local emergency due to drought conditions. State assistance is being requested at this time.

Southern Region:

Inyo County:

* Requesting that federal and state agencies provide financial and other assistances to residents, water suppliers, water rights holders, ranchers, farmers, business owners and local governments in Inyo County to mitigate the effects of the persistent drought conditions. OA contingency plans are in progress.

* Shallow wells are no longer producing - affected residents are being hooked into other water sources while new deeper wells are being drilled. No request for water fresh water at this time.

* Some residential wells have run dry, deeper wells are being dug but there is a waiting list and more drillers may be needed in the area.

Santa Barbara County:

* Established an 8 member Drought Task Force in line with the state.

Ventura County:

* Cities and special districts within Ventura County are following the model established by the State Task Force and are in Stage 1, recommending a 20% reduction of water usage rates.

Coastal Region:

Alameda County:

* Zone 7 Board of Directors has declared an agency emergency for the drought on Wednesday January 29th. Zone 7 is planning to expedite 2 additional wells and an intertie pipeline. At this time, estimated costs, which were authorized, is \$5 million. Zone 7 is also planning for emergency well drilling but will track local well requests.

Del Norte County:

* Several wells are getting low but with both rivers are ok at this time. Del Norte County OES is having weekly check-ins with the water departments in the operational area including tribes.

Humboldt County:

* Enacted Stage 1 (of 5) voluntary conservation measures.

Lake County:

* Lake County is looking at options for a possible proclamation. A meeting will be held on 2/18 with water districts to discuss the issues.

Marin County:

*MMWD has activated the district's water shortage contingency plan calling for 25% voluntary usage reduction. Department of Agriculture is reporting lack of feed and reduction in ranching herds.

Mendocino County:

* Willits, Pine Mt., and Brooktrails all have less than 100 days of supply and are currently working with public health to come up with solutions. Other districts have restrictions. Lake Mendocino has limited supply and will affect agriculture.

* City of Willits (Stage 5 of 5) and Brooktrails Township (20% reduction) have mandated water reduction.

* Working with City of Willits, Brooktrails, and Redwood Valley water district to find resources to meet the water shortage needs. These three areas have been identified as the most critical need within the County of Mendocino. OES has been working with CDPH who has been out doing site visits to water districts in Mendocino County (Mission 2014-Coastal-2015).

Information for the three most critical areas:

* Willits: population served 8,062, investigating the use of an old agricultural well near waste water treatment plant and separate well which has arsenic 12 times the MCL. Discussions are currently ongoing about treatment options for these wells.

* Brooktrails: Population served 3,800, plan rationing and possible inter tie with Willits or drill additional wells. The wells will likely have impacts with Fish and Game, any assistance with their agency would be helpful.

* Redwood Valley CWD, population served 3,969, planning multiple step approach including pumping into intake caisson and enhancing an inter tie with adjacent water systems.

* OES and CDPH have been in contact with all three systems. CDPH has performed field visits to each system. CDPH is visiting the Willits area again on 1/30/14 to discuss alternatives and then if possible will be visiting with the Mendocino Task Force after for a summary.

* The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has assembled an AD HOC committee who is looking at water shortages.

* The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors has renewed their declaration of an emergency.

Santa Clara County:

*The SCVWD is continuing 2014 water supply and operations planning, and verifying sources of State and federal imported water supplies. The District is currently anticipating very restricted surface water supplies for its three drinking water treatment plants, as well as degraded water quality in deliveries from the Delta and San Luis Reservoir that may affect treatment plant operations. At present, the District is not considering declaration of a drought-related local emergency.

San Mateo County:

* The County/Op Area, its cities and districts, are not considering current conditions as an emergency and are monitoring the situation.

* County has placed a voluntary 10% reduction and will be meeting with water providers soon.

San Benito County:

* Board of Supervisors meeting will discuss a proclamation of Water Shortage Emergency and Implementing the Districts Water Shortage Contingency Plans.

Solano County:

* Residents are voluntarily complying with the Governor's recommended 20% reduction. [A working group has been established but no declaration is planned.](#)

Sonoma County:

* City of Healdsburg enacted mandatory conservation at Stage 2 (of 3). These measures are intended to cut usage by 20%. City of Cloverdale passed mandatory use reductions of 25%. The small community of Sea Ranch on the coast has instituted voluntary conservation measures. Sonoma County Water Agency has launched a voluntary conservation campaign and the City of Petaluma considers conservation efforts if conditions don't change.

* [County looking at ways it can internally save water. No current plans for a proclamation.](#)